



The Talking DLD Podcast Transcript

S01 E01 - A Parent's Perspective on a DLD Diagnosis

Join The DLD Project Co-Founder Shaun Ziegenfusz as he speaks with Belinda Peters, parent of a child with DLD and Founder of the DLD Australia Facebook group.

Throughout this inspiring conversation, you'll hear about Belinda's long journey to a DLD diagnosis for her son and discover some of the positives that come from being a parent of a child with DLD.

You can visit the Developmental Language Disorder Australia Facebook Page [here](#).

Audio file

[The Talking DLD Podcast S1E01 - A Parent's Perspective.mp3](#)

Transcript

00:00:00 Child

Talking DLD

00:00:01 Adult

Developmental language disorder.

00:00:04 Adult

One in fourteen.

00:00:07 Child

DLD

00:00:09 Adult

The Talking DLD Podcast.

00:00:12 Adult

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00:00:16 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Hey everyone, Shaun Ziegenfusz here co-founder of The DLD project.

00:00:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I'm really excited to be sharing today's Talking DLD podcast with you. We're interviewing Belinda Peters, who's a parent of a child with developmental language disorder, as well as the founder of the DLD Australia Facebook group.

00:00:36 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, I'd like to start by welcoming Belinda Peters, who is here with us today to talk about her perspective, the parent perspective of having a child with DLD. So, welcome to the Talking DLD podcast Belinda.

00:00:49 Belinda Peters

Thanks Shaun, it's great to chat to you.

00:00:52 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I'm really excited. So, what I think I might do, rather than me introducing you, I thought let's start, if you don't mind, by talking about your connection to DLD and maybe if you're happy to share a bit about your son and your journey together?

00:01:04 Belinda Peters

Yeah, so my connection to DLD is through my son who's now 10 turning 11 in a few months.

00:01:13 Belinda Peters

So yeah, DLD wasn't something that... I guess it wasn't part of my vocabulary. And I guess, so talking about how we've become connected to it is, I guess going back to when he was two and a half is when we saw that he had some issues with speech.

00:01:34 Belinda Peters

So yeah, at that stage... I should just go backwards and say he was born with facial palsy so he has a lack of movement on one side the face so speech therapy was something that was brought up early that he may need.

00:01:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

OK.

00:01:51 Belinda Peters



And you know, I guess that was my first foray into parent groups as well and finding out information. And it appeared at that stage that he could have an issue with speech.

00:02:03 Belinda Peters

A lot reported that their child with facial palsy didn't have a problem with speech. But at two and a half we found he didn't have many words and the words he did have were hard to understand.

00:02:16 Belinda Peters

So that was, I guess, our first foray into speech therapy. And so, we went through that, and I guess yeah, it's been a bit of a bit of a journey.

00:02:28 Belinda Peters

And he then we start with private speech therapy weekly. And that moved on into the public health system, because, yeah, his need was quite great and there was a lot of work to do.

00:02:42 Belinda Peters

And so, at that stage it's just, I guess...And a lot of families have probably had this is... It's a speech delay, you know. So, the focus is he'll catch up with all the support and therapy, I guess.

00:02:58 Belinda Peters

And he had other delays as well. So, at that sort of preschool age he had, you know, I guess the term that we were given with global developmental delay, and I think that too is a common thing for kids that uhm, who now you know, have DLD. They might have some movement issues. They might need some OT.

00:03:23 Belinda Peters

Before he started school, that's kind of.... Public, the public support in Queensland.... He did have that, he got some physio, he got OT I think but that it just runs out. You get to a point where they go you've used up your quota. So that was at four before they're like OK we've now...

00:03:50 Belinda Peters

Because I think then too it's transitioning between the health system to the education system as well. So, it's navigating uhm between health going OK well he's going to school now this is an education issue or yeah.

00:04:06 Belinda Peters

So then that support ran out. Then we're going, ah he's starting school. So that's another transition. He did get some support through ECDP. So, Queensland education support I guess for kids with a disability going preschool like so, it's that to give them a bit of, give them extra support to enter the school system.



00:04:32 Belinda Peters

So, we did that and at that stage you know, DLD still hasn't come up, we're talking five years, five years ago. He's in year five now.

00:04:47 Belinda Peters

You know, and you're getting. You're going to pediatricians, and they're saying, well, he's intellectually impaired. Which as a parent, I'm thinking I don't think this kid is intellectually impaired. I think he has a problem with expressing himself so...

00:05:05 Belinda Peters

You know so, but you're going along with the experts and what they're telling you so.

00:05:09 Belinda Peters

We're getting a lot of still a lot of speech therapy at that point, and some OT and physio as well.

00:05:20 Belinda Peters

But yeah, so I guess that's a bit of a roundabout way.

00:05:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Everything in a nutshell? Absolutely.

00:05:22 Belinda Peters

Yeah, in a nutshell. So, it's I guess I'd describe it as navigating a lot of areas to get support for him and entering school and that's another area that we're still getting support. He's been verified in the Queensland system, they still call it speech language impaired.

00:05:45 Belinda Peters

So, I guess that is when you know they're running all the checks that they've gone.

00:05:50 Belinda Peters

Oh well. He isn't intellectually impaired. He has a primary disability in language and speech.

00:05:58 Belinda Peters

And so that for me was, I guess, what I always knew was the big issue for him.

00:06:07 Belinda Peters



Umm yeah, so expression. A little bit of receptive but mostly expression for him and that's fed into some literacy issues and learning to read. So, now it is all those learning issues that come with it.

00:06:24 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You've hit on so many great topics there Belinda.

00:06:28 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, thank you because you've just in a nutshell, you know in just a couple of minutes set the scene on, just you know the issues around terminology and actually getting an answer from health professionals telling you know all different messages. Yeah, but also the fact that you know it's not just mainly speech and language that you've needed support with. You've needed support from, you know other allied health professionals like occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

00:06:55 Shaun Ziegenfusz

As you said, so there's lots of things happening.

00:06:57 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Are there any challenges that you've faced as a parent or as a family, either maybe leading up to diagnosis... You know you said there was a bit of a protracted period there. Or since getting the diagnosis that you'd be happy to share with our listeners?

00:07:14 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I, I think it's I've just I felt uhm, just a sense of frustration in terms of the resources available. I mean the resources are there, but it had to be us getting and paying for all of that apart from you know just some brief public assistance, you know?

00:07:41 Belinda Peters

And it's been a kind of a bit of a lonely journey. I guess because I've known other friends with kids with ASD and they've had a lot of support and funding that I could see my son needed all of that, but we couldn't access it.

00:07:56 Belinda Peters

So, I think that's been the real just frustration around not being able to put a label on what he had.

00:08:06 Belinda Peters

So then getting people to understand... There is a bit of a, I felt as I've been navigating it is, Oh well it's just speech. Oh, he's just...



00:08:18 Shaun Ziegenfusz

It's downplayed a bit, isn't it?

00:08:21 Belinda Peters

Yeah. But when you think about it, language is everything, and if you can't express yourself. Or then that leads into learning issues and you can't express yourself that way either. You know it's a big deal and it's I think it is downplayed, and that's sort of what I've felt but...

00:08:44 Belinda Peters

You know I'm the one... You know, and I guess my approach isn't... I'm not a pushy person, I'm not... Uhm, so that's definitely not how I advocate.

00:08:53 Belinda Peters

But I've always gone, look I can't look back and say I haven't done everything I can for him. So, that's been how I've approached it is trying to make sure that I'm always up on what's happening.

00:09:08 Belinda Peters

And I guess that's how I found DLD... Through my own research, is that that was the term and you read the criteria and like, thank goodness this is it.

00:09:20 Shaun Ziegenfusz

We've got a term.

00:09:21 Belinda Peters

It's like that's him.

00:09:26 Belinda Peters

I think you know, as much as labels get a bad name. I think if you can you know feel part of a community that understands what you're going through as a parent, it helps. Because otherwise you're just, you know you're talking to friends about it and you feel like, well, they will understand, they'll talk through it, but it gets to a point where that runs out in a way, their understanding runs out.

00:09:56 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, do you find then that they're able to understand? I guess what a day looks like? Or is it something that you know you find more comfort or through discussion with other parents who have similar needs?

00:10:05 Belinda Peters



Yeah, Yeah, I think sometimes. And definitely it's sometimes those wins as well, like little wins that to a parent with average children that aren't going through this it might seem like nothing. You'll go, oh look, the report card came back, yeah.

00:10:22 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, take it for granted.

00:10:25 Belinda Peters

And like you could get a report card that could have all C's and you could be over the moon because that's you know age appropriate.

00:10:32 Shaun Ziegenfusz

A huge achievement.

00:10:33 Belinda Peters

Yeah yeah. And but to you know if you mention that someone else that. Could be like oh.

00:10:39 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Horrified look on their faces. Yeah, it's like oh you're not trying hard enough but actually I'm doing extra hours at home to get to this.

00:10:48 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yep, that's right.

00:10:50 Belinda Peters

So, I think it goes both ways it's... Other people to celebrate with those small, really small wins because sometimes they're tiny.

00:11:00 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, little baby steps.

00:11:02 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and it's when you're feeling really frustrated and want to you know you're crying on the phone to the inclusion support teacher, which you know I've done recently.

00:11:16 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, I was going to say you wouldn't be the only one.



00:11:19 Belinda Peters

Yeah, just trying to get that, you know, support and understanding. And sometimes you know, when you're getting feedback about your child and you want people to note look, he is trying his best and some of the things you're seeing are characteristics of a child with DLD.

00:11:40 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I guess that from a parent's perspective, that's it.

00:11:45 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Sounds like you've been an amazing advocate for your son. In that regard, I think I probably have a... You know, I've got a big interest in advocacy and supporting these young people, but it's actually not just the massive advocacy campaigns that we're talking about. It's actually advocating day in, day out that my child has you know this condition. They need this support.

00:12:12 Shaun Ziegenfusz

For a population of people where you know the general population don't know what DLD is really. And have no... have great difficulties, I found in my own experience, even coming to understand what it is. And I often use little anecdotes or stories like, you know, have you ever been to a country where you don't speak the language?

00:12:32 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And I've often given parents, I don't know if you've seen the Holland poem where it's, you know they go into one country and they end up in Holland and it's different.

00:12:37 Belinda Peters

Yes, yes.

00:12:41 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But you know?

00:12:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And it seems so small sometimes, but it's all of these parents are going through this same journey. And I can imagine once this podcast is released, and I'm hoping that parents will hear your story and nod along thinking, yeah, that's me.

00:12:56 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yeah.



00:12:56 Shaun Ziegenfusz

That's what I've had to.

00:12:58 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and I think that's the thing you just... I didn't set out to start a support group. Well, it's you know it's very informal. It's just... It was just that I didn't feel there was support there for me and I thought, well, if there's no support for me, there's how many other thousands of people out there just sitting at home like me.

00:13:21 Belinda Peters

You know what? I'll just start a group and hopefully people will find it. And that's, I think how I approach it.

00:13:29 Belinda Peters

I'll post things that I find interesting because I think it's learning all the time and then spreading that out there.

00:13:37 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Parents supporting parents is so powerful, isn't it?

00:13:40 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and just having somewhere there that they can ask a question and there'll be other people there to answer them.

00:13:47 Belinda Peters

I think that's the big power of it.

00:13:51 Belinda Peters

You know when you've got... If you're sitting there and you're wondering about something you can put a question up and there'll be some people to answer.

00:13:59 Shaun Ziegenfusz

For those people listening in. Belinda, of course, is the person who started the DLD Australia Facebook group. If you're not following that, I will actually tag the page in our resources for the podcast.

00:14:12 Shaun Ziegenfusz



So, you've touched on this already, but can you tell us a bit about you know why you've started the group, but then also what's really surprised you about the group?

00:14:20 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You know what are some of those things that you do think oh... You know either warms the heart or yeah...Yeah, you know? Can you tell us a bit about that?

00:14:29 Belinda Peters

Uhm yeah. So, I started the group, I think it's about 3 years ago now.

00:14:33 Belinda Peters

And as I mentioned, it was just out of... And I think it was a discussion on uhm, Alison from Spelfabet. I follow her page.

00:14:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Alison Clarke

00:14:43 Belinda Peters

Yeah, she is you know has a lot of good resources that... She's a speech therapist herself and I think it was just a conversation on her Facebook page about advocacy around DLD and she made a comment about you know that it has to be maybe some parent led advocacy. It couldn't just come from speech therapists because it looks like self-interest or that sort of thing.

00:15:11 Belinda Peters

And I was I.... I think I might have asked the question; do you know of any groups?

00:15:16 Belinda Peters

Because I think at that point... Like Jarvis was, I think around... just around the time we got the verification and that DLD was becoming a term.

00:15:29 Belinda Peters

Uhm, so yeah, that's when I... I'm sitting there after that and she said no, there's not, doesn't seem to be much in the way of support groups. And she mentioned about the parent led support group and I just said on the post I said, well, I guess I have to start one then.

00:15:47 Belinda Peters

And that's what I did. I just thought, well, if I someone got to start it and that's how I see my role, I don't... I don't take any ownership over it in a way I just wanted it to exist.



00:16:01 Belinda Peters

So, I started a page and that's more outward facing for information. And I started a group that's for parents and it is just parents. There are some speech therapists as well because I feel like that's the... And some educators and you know. I think because we all have to work together and I think that change won't come...

00:16:22 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, it's a key point, isn't it?

00:16:25 Belinda Peters

Yeah so, it's focused on parents but feel like the input of speech therapists and teachers who are interested is good to have.

00:16:38 Belinda Peters

So that's why I started it, and that's sort of just how I kept it... I haven't, you know, I had wild ideas of doing more, like here's more information because I'm a communicator and a writer by trade, but of course, if that's what you do day in, day out, doesn't always translate into your time off, I guess?

00:17:01 Belinda Peters

Yep, so it's.

00:17:03 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yep, it's like getting the electrician to do the home jobs or the cooks to cook dinner.

00:17:05 Belinda Peters

Yeah, that's why.

00:17:07 Belinda Peters

Yes, yeah yeah. So, I have electrician husband so...

00:17:12 Shaun Ziegenfusz

There you go. You know what I'm talking about then?

00:17:13 Belinda Peters

So yeah, exactly. So yeah, so that's where it's... And I just share resources and I guess just have a place. And what I've been surprised about is that just having a place and just not promoting it, not just having it



there uhm, that people do feel safe to ask questions. And what I've been really surprised about is that our members are just amazing and share a lot of their own struggles or their own stories to help others.

00:17:48 Belinda Peters

And that's, that's what I always wanted. I just wanted that forum. And there's some great people that you know you see them time and time again, sharing parts of their life and their struggles. And it is just to help others or to point them in the right direction. Yeah so...

00:18:05 Shaun Ziegenfusz

That's wonderful. What a huge achievement from something that was, you know, spontaneous and yes, but as you said, highly effective.

00:18:15 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I've always felt as a professional that you know there's this real challenge sometimes with... I say that I advocate and I do advocate, but wanting people to feel that they have the opportunity to advocate for their child. But then some of the most powerful advocacy comes from the people with the condition themselves, but obviously one of the key criteria for having a developmental language disorder is difficulties with communication.

00:18:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So yeah, I just you know, I hope one day that we'll have these amazing orators who are able to, you know, stand up and speak about their experiences with developmental language disorder.

00:18:53 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, I keep reminding myself as a clinician that that will come back to me as a clinician working with their families to help their communication skills, so eventually they can advocate for themselves.

00:19:04 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And of course, you know we've had decades of you know confusion around terminology. And that we finally have these, you know, clear criteria and you know this new terminology or... I think Dorothy Bishop would say old terminology because I think DLD used to be used... went out of Vogue and then has come back in.

00:19:23 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yeah.

00:19:25 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But I think having that, as you say, just gives families something to look at and know, hey, this is what I have or what my child has. Know where to find information. 'Cause until recently, I mean, if you googled



as your main search strategy, you know speech language... You could come up with anything and it wouldn't necessarily be helpful for you or your child so...

00:19:51 Belinda Peters

And that's it.

00:19:52 Belinda Peters

And I think it is still that terminology. It's still getting better and I think even speech therapists... And it still doesn't get used. I think there's more and more speech therapists coming on board with the new terminology. What it looks like, how to diagnose it?

00:20:09 Belinda Peters

But you know, we've been everything under the sun, you know, phonological speech disorder or, you know, and it's all part of I think this broader picture....

00:20:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, of speech and language needs.

00:20:24 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, but would you say to speech pathologist... And I know this is, we're going off the questions we've discussed already now. But yeah, what would you say I guess to a speech pathologist who was concerned about labeling? You know, as a parent, you know that often there's this sort of internal battle around labeling and whether it's helpful or whether it's actually, you know, going to disadvantage the child. And parents will often ask me exactly the same things. Well, what's your thoughts on that?

00:20:49 Belinda Peters

That yeah, I look... I think it can be tricky, particularly for younger kids. And I, you know, I'm seeing it now like and that's something I'm seeing in the group.

00:21:00 Belinda Peters

Someone will join and they'll say, my child's been diagnosed with DLD and... You know it's getting younger like a 5-year-old or a, you know...And, I think up until that point it probably is tricky to diagnose it.

00:21:14 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and probably is around looking at that whole delay versus a disorder that you know you have to... I guess, and as a parent I mean, I think you're always looking for answers as to why.



00:21:32 Belinda Peters

But I think sometimes yeah, the label has to fit too.

00:21:38 Belinda Peters

So, it's a dilemma and I think with DLD... Well, our experience was they had to pretty much rule out everything else.

00:21:46 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, it's exclusionary criteria.

00:21:48 Belinda Peters

Yeah, exclusionary. So, if it is a criteria like that then it's going to take a while... I think until....

00:21:56 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And I think that's the beauty of the new.... And if we look at the CATALISE papers, which again, I'll tag into the resources... Is that you know, it's establishing there's a language disorder first and then investigating if there's any cause for that, so that it's not excluding the opportunity for intervention. It's saying, we've got difficulties with language. Often, they can be comorbid with speech as you've said. But that's not going to stop you from then getting support. And I think that that's the that's a big shift and I think that there's challenges with that.

00:22:31 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So obviously DLD is a lifelong condition. There's a need for support and that will change from being a preschooler to a school age to an adolescent, to an adult.

00:22:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And are you able to share with us some of the challenges you or people that you know either personally or in the DLD Australian group have faced in accessing services in funding?

00:22:53 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I guess originally, sort of straddling the NDIS idea of, you know, we've come.... I guess all that early intervention for us is pre NDIS.

00:23:08 Belinda Peters

Yeah, so there was no access to... The funding at that stage was you know disorder based or this is your diagnosis. And so, if you don't fall into those very you know category of particular diagnosis you didn't get that support.



00:23:26 Belinda Peters

You might have got 5 speech sessions a year. So, we got that, but...

00:23:32 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Which has not a lot of Impact for somebody with a lifelong condition.

00:23:36 Belinda Peters

No, no. So that was, I guess, that was a struggle.

00:23:41 Belinda Peters

Yes, in terms of, you know, we we've had to fund that because I.... You know, and not every family.... I wouldn't say, you know we're well off, but it was... I had to prioritize that and go well, this is what we have to do. But you know, not every family can even prioritize it.

00:24:02 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, it's a big expense.

00:24:04 Belinda Peters

Yeah. And you know, at one stage we were doing you know, all three. We were seeing the you know speechie, a physio and OT every week and you know that was leading up to school.

00:24:18 Belinda Peters

I think it's always... And you know we're in this now that we're ending the higher levels of primary school going... You know everything is a transition to the next stage, so you're kind of throwing yourself.

00:24:30 Belinda Peters

I remember that before we started school with like oh, we got to you know...

00:24:36 Belinda Peters

And I think the pressure was on there... And I don't know if they're you know advice has changed, but we were told look if he can't get all his speech sounds to by the age of seven you know...

00:24:53 Belinda Peters

It's based on.... I know there is research on it, but it's like well you're pretty much stuffed. You're not going to learn to read.

00:25:00 Belinda Peters



That was the feeling. That was the pressure I felt was, if you don't get this sorted... And that's before that, you have the realization that this is ongoing, this is lifelong.

00:25:12 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, it's not going to change in the next week or two weeks, yeah?

00:25:13 Belinda Peters

Yeah, it's not going to change. You can get improvements in that, but I think that's... That was a lot of stress.

00:25:22 Belinda Peters

Of going well, gosh we got to you know... And I think in that stage it was like all the pressures on you, like the therapist is working with you but you're like I've got to get this kid up to, you know... It's always something about age appropriate or age...

00:25:39 Belinda Peters

And I think for me, it's when you let go of that idea that, that you know he may never have age-appropriate language skills that it kind of sets you free to go well, what is improvement for him?

00:25:57 Belinda Peters

And that's I guess when I could flip that idea.

00:26:02 Belinda Peters

I think it was easier to go, hey what should we focus on now. And that changes like I think literacy has been a big focus for us. And that's been hard, and it's getting that support at school which is ongoing. Trying to get the right support.

00:26:23 Belinda Peters

So that's been a focus for us and it still is, and will be ongoing.

00:26:28 Belinda Peters

And then now that he's heading into, I guess tween/teen years.

00:26:34 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yes, all the hormones...

00:26:35 Belinda Peters



Yeah, and thinking about high school.... Uhm, we're you know, I'm thinking of 'cause we had so much and we still have so much to work on, I think.

00:26:46 Belinda Peters

And that's the thing that comes up in the group too... You just, you think of speech therapy as one thing but when you've got multiple areas to work on... So, you could be working on your articulation. You could be working on sounds like recognizing sounds. You know there's a literacy aspect. There's expression. There's just, you know, even talking in sentences. There's things that people take for granted, you know. You hear people say well speech is something that people just.

00:27:19 Belinda Peters

You hear people say well speech is something that people just pick up. But when they don't or they don't pick up language skills, there's a lot to work on and you can only focus on...

00:27:28 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So many things?

00:27:28 Belinda Peters

Yeah, so many things. And I think we've been overwhelmed at times with the amount of things and you know this is a kid that has to do this stuff.

00:27:41 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You can't get through life without talking.

00:27:43 Belinda Peters

No, no. So, to his credit you know he's been doing speech therapy for, since he was 2 1/2 and you know we have to I guess always look at changing the approach.

00:27:58 Belinda Peters

And you know he has had a bit of a break over this COVID period.

00:28:03 Belinda Peters

But my thoughts are now... Is maybe there's articulation things that we could be working on.

00:28:09 Belinda Peters

I guess moving into high school and potentially having to make new friends. And he's been lucky he's a social kid and he does have a great group of friends he can express himself, you know he can be



understood now. And that wasn't always the case, but he could make friends. And even when he was hard to understand.

00:28:31 Belinda Peters

So, I think for him socially that's been... You know he's a social creature like a lot of us, you know, and it's just equipping him with those skills that you know things will change as he gets older. And to relate to new people and those sorts of things.

00:28:48 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And a lot of that comes through intervention and working, and I guess just bringing back to that earlier point around the challenges in accessing services and funding.

00:28:58 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I mean, yeah, how have you gone or how you know what are some of the challenges?

00:29:03 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Because obviously you've talked about going from self-funding, and you've had stints with public and then we've kind of only just scratched the surface on NDIS. So, you know, I'd love to come back and talk about that because you know, what are the challenges that a parent with DLD faces with accessing? And obviously your experiences are QLD based and our listeners might be national or potentially, maybe even international but what are some of the challenges that have you found navigating that funding and access to services?

00:29:33 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I think there's still an issue. With NDIS it's still... You know you've been told before it came out, it was a needs-based funding. So, you're going, woohoo... You know he's someone who needs... who's got needs.

00:29:48 Belinda Peters

But then you start looking into it and it's still like a 5050. If you're looking at kids above the age of 7... So, you've got that early intervention support, and I've noticed on the group there's people accessing that support.

00:30:05 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Which is fabulous.

00:30:09 Belinda Peters

It's great, great. Uhm, but then above that age you hear of ones being kicked out.



00:30:14 Belinda Peters

You know that the funding... It's no longer early intervention, so the criteria is a bit tougher.

00:30:19 Belinda Peters

So, where we're at with that is I went and found out more about it and to us I was told it was a 5050 chance of him getting anything.

00:30:31 Belinda Peters

So it's been, I guess it's.... For the amount of therapy he's getting at the moment I've put it on the back burner. I didn't want to put us through the kind of onerous application to be told that, you know you're not going to get anything.

00:30:52 Belinda Peters

And you know, then I might change. Next year I might go, no, we've got to do it.

00:30:58 Belinda Peters

I think it's... At the moment was there, you know what you get out of it?

00:31:03 Belinda Peters

You know, I, I think that's still the thing that's been iffy with NDIS is that doesn't seem to be... The fact that DLD is not widely recognized is still a problem.

00:31:15 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, absolutely.

00:31:16 Belinda Peters

Because you really just have to paint that really grim picture.

00:31:21 Belinda Peters

It's the grimmest picture and sometimes as a parent you don't want to go there in terms of... I try and be positive and I look at all his strengths, but when you peel that back and you know what DLD can mean for a person's future.

00:31:39 Belinda Peters

It's pretty grim, like if they're you know in the severe category, which we are we're in.

00:31:45 Belinda Peters



And you know it's... It can be tough, and I mean that's where you know NDIS might be needed in the future too. In terms of looking at employment and all those things that are down the track.

00:32:00 Belinda Peters

Yeah so, I find it still... Accessing the services through that means, it's still a lack of understanding. Like if you were to say, oh my child has ASD. It's there. Like it's... pretty much... You're still having to paint a picture of how life looks like for that child, but there's...

00:32:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But it seems to be more clearly understood, doesn't it? In comparison, yeah.

00:32:25 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yeah.

00:32:26 Belinda Peters

So, when you're talking to someone from NDIS and saying, oh my child has developmental language disorder, most of them aren't going to know what that is unless you go this is what it means.

00:32:38 Belinda Peters

So, it's still a lot of work there to try and get that across the line. And it's really upsetting to watch.

00:32:48 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I mean I'm so appreciative to be a part of the DLD Australia group as a professional you know, and I'm always very conscious to establish you know, my credentials or anything before I state things. To be very careful that it's you know what my thoughts are. But the thing that just breaks my heart week in, week out is the stories of families who invested so much time into just getting support.

00:33:14 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And often what they're asking for isn't their home to be refitted for access or bathroom access. They're not looking at very expensive equipment.

00:33:26 Shaun Ziegenfusz

There's often simply asking for speech pathology, which is costing them thousands often of dollars out of their own pocket every year. And the economic burden of that for the families could very easily be resolved and enable them to put their time and energy into other supports. And enable them to you know these 7.6% or one in 14 kids to thrive in other areas without the pressure of trying to work out well, am I going to do this or am I going to pay for speech pathology?



00:33:56 Belinda Peters

Oh yeah, and that's what it comes down to. I mean, it's time and money in terms of yeah, if you're spending that on speech therapy every week, the funds aren't there to pay for things they might be interested in terms of... And that's the thing you know.

00:34:13 Belinda Peters

There're still kids that have strengths that you want to grow...

00:34:19 Shaun Ziegenfusz

They could be a great swimmer or a rugby player. Or you know, pianist, you know?

00:34:25 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But yeah, without being able to access some of those interests, it's quite self-limiting in some ways.

00:34:30 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yes, that's right.

00:34:30 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And that's... Yeah, just I completely agree that it's just you know, it's such a challenge that space.

00:34:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And you know I could be a little bit controversial here. But I'm going to I'm going to push ahead... And if you really if you had, if you had the head of NDIS here, you know and you had a chance to say what you want to say, what would you say to them?

00:34:52 Belinda Peters

I guess it's just getting across that you know DLD is serious and life long. I think I a lot of people are still caught up in that whole.... Uhm, you know it's a speech delay or you know they'll get over it, and yeah, they'll catch up.

00:35:06 Shaun Ziegenfusz

They'll catch up.

00:35:10 Belinda Peters

It's not that bad, you know. They're the things that we've heard, and that's... but it's got wide ranging ramifications for their life. And the thing is, these kids are, you know, they're not... They're not dumb



kids, you know, but I think that's... It limits what they can do in life because they can't always express the answer or...

00:35:39 Belinda Peters

You know so, that's what I really want to get across that you know. It is a thing, it's serious and yeah.

00:35:44 Shaun Ziegenfusz

It's real, it's real.

00:35:47 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You don't create a Facebook group about...With all these parents.

00:35:50 Belinda Peters

DLD is real.

00:35:52 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, DLD is real. We could add that to the, you know, the banner at the top.

00:35:56 Belinda Peters

That's right. I think, and it's just getting that across because I think once they understand that. The areas that it affects and in fact you know all areas of your life.

00:36:11 Belinda Peters

That I think they'd be more inclined to go yet look we fund that will fund that.

00:36:15 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and that like you say, it's not that yeah, people would be looking for, you know a whole heap of things with that money. It's mainly therapy and it's... You know, or you know, use of assistive technology or. Things like that.

00:36:31 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, really key point.

00:36:33 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Uhm, I guess that that brings me to my next question, which is, you know you've got so much knowledge and experience now as a parent. I know that you know, you've gone through this journey of, you know, not really knowing what the condition was. And then there was labels that you know may or may not have fitted. And now gone on to create this amazing support group.



00:36:56 Shaun Ziegenfusz

What advice would you give a parent of a child who's been recently diagnosed with DLD? Because we are seeing them coming through, aren't we now?

00:37:03 Belinda Peters

Oh yeah. And I think that's exciting. It's exciting. It doesn't feel like it at the time.

00:37:09 Shaun Ziegenfusz

No, not at the time, but...

00:37:11 Belinda Peters

So at the time I think my advice would be.. That I guess first of all that it's OK. I mean.... Uhm, you kind of... As soon as your child is labeled as something, I think that's what you immediately to think about is well, are they going to be OK?

00:37:29 Belinda Peters

And I think you know, they are. Like, I mean they can thrive with this and...

00:37:36 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Absolutely, yep.

00:37:38 Belinda Peters

And I think that that's important to know and that... I think it's just to be kind to yourself as well. Like I think it's really tough for parents when they get the news of any sort of diagnosis or a difficulty for the kids because they don't want their kids to have difficulty. You know?

00:37:59 Shaun Ziegenfusz

No, nobody for their child wants life to be harder.

00:38:02 Belinda Peters

No, that's right so.

00:38:05 Belinda Peters

I think that's the thing. and to reach out for support. And I know I've been in that case, you try and you try and do it all yourself. or you're navigating all these... and ask for help with how you know... what other parents have done or what has helped because there's a lot of options out there in terms of you know and...



00:38:25 Belinda Peters

People will tell you one thing, or you know, just reach out for help and ask for support. I think and that you don't have to do it alone.

00:38:33 Belinda Peters

I think from our journey, that's what I've found.

00:38:38 Belinda Peters

I mean I think personally it's hard to reach out for support. And you've got support from... If you find a good speech therapist and that can be a challenge, you know people, speech therapists sometimes they leave jobs and you know.

00:38:52 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yes, have babies. Have different interests.

00:38:54 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and we've had to establish new relationships and that it's a long... I think it's important to know it's a long game.

00:39:05 Belinda Peters

I mean, I didn't always know that. At the start I think it was always around, I will get him, you know to age appropriate, and then you won't have to come to speech therapy anymore. Yeah, I think realizing a child with DLD, it's a long-term thing that as we've touched on this, they'll need support on an ongoing basis, so I guess that's some of the...

00:39:31 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And that language is just one part of his life, isn't it?

00:39:35 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I mean, yeah. I imagine that he succeeds in other areas as well. Are you able to talk to you know some of those things that he does do really well?

00:39:42 Belinda Peters

Yeah, that's right.

00:39:43 Belinda Peters



I mean and I'm a big believer too in any challenge you have... Uhm, helps you be a better person in a way.

00:39:52 Belinda Peters

And what I've seen with him is that he's a really compassionate kid who is a really good friend. If he sees his friends going through difficulty... I've seen that compassionate side to him because he knows what it's like to struggle so, and he's aware of that.

00:40:10 Belinda Peters

But in other areas, he's a really creative kid. He loves to draw. And again, it's if you can't express yourself in written language, you can do it through drawing. And he likes to write comics and do all of that stuff.

00:40:24 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Oh wow, that's cool, yeah?

00:40:26 Belinda Peters

It comes up with some really way-out ideas. And you know, despite like as a clumsy kid who had, you know, low motor tone or low...

00:40:38 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, low tone.

00:40:41 Belinda Peters

He plays soccer every weekend, and is loving that now.

00:40:47 Belinda Peters

So, I think that's the thing. And the thing that's really helped me is to look at your child and go well... Look at them succeeding in those things and supporting their interests. And that's the thing that sometimes therapy can be overwhelming and you're going well, I'm trying to do the best for my kid and they have to do all this stuff...

00:41:06 Belinda Peters

Sometimes you got to take a step back from that two and go well, maybe I support the stuff they want to do and language skills come from some amazing places.

00:41:17 Belinda Peters

Sometimes... I mean he's a keen gamer, so as a lot of 10-year-old boys are.



00:41:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, that's cool.

00:41:24 Belinda Peters

So, and I... You know the gaming and the online world can get a bad rap sometimes. But I see him playing with his friends and all they're doing is talking while they're playing these games, so it's thinking outside the box.

00:41:38 Belinda Peters

I think sometimes in terms of acquiring language, some of the things that you don't think are going to be helpful will really be quite helpful because it's around an interest then.

00:41:49 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And it's remembering that they are a person under themselves with interests and passions and dislikes.

00:41:55 Belinda Peters

Oh yeah.

00:41:57 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And you know, that they actually have their own personality. And I think the conversation I have with most with parents is almost disentangling what's the DLD aspect and what is their unique personality under themselves. And you know, they can have interests and they can be really good at rugby league or they can be really good at you know craft and art and things like that.

00:42:25 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But unless we kind of give those opportunities we're never going to know, are we? So, it's just like every other little person.

00:42:29 Belinda Peters

Yep, that's right.

00:42:31 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So yeah, we've touched on this already, but I'd like to go into it in a bit more depth... What have you found that has really helped your son?

00:42:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz



Or it could also be worded as, what's really helped you as well? Yeah, but yeah, you know what's really helped?

00:42:47 Belinda Peters

Yeah, it's probably two things like and I think sometimes as you get along this journey, you kind of forget how far you've come...

00:42:56 Belinda Peters

So, I think the first thing is speech therapy and regular speech therapy. You can kind of think that OK and his speech isn't always clear, so you can kind of go, oh well has that helped? But you go backwards and go well he was a child that no one could understand and he would be frustrated, you know? And you see a lot of toddlers or preschoolers that can't express themselves... but they're demanding.

00:43:25 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yes, they can't communicate what they wanted.

00:43:26 Belinda Peters

They can't, they don't... Well, they know what they're saying, you know. Yeah, they know what they're trying to get across.

00:43:33 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and so I think that that regular... You know, we've tried a lot of different approaches. And I think even in those younger years, like a lot of... it's parental input in that too, like we did, programs like a Hanen program, like when he was quite young, you know? So, and then all the stuff around building phonological awareness.

00:43:57 Belinda Peters

I think it's all helped. And in more recent years I think discovering... And that's sort of where I've had to push a bit is the ideas of the learning to read and how it's taught in school isn't always the way that the DLD brain likes to learn. And so, it's finding the phonic readers. Working on... just getting right back to does he know or sounds does he you know... That's been, actually finding the research on science of reading and that sort of thing.

00:44:34 Belinda Peters

I can see that we can get in there now.

00:44:39 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, absolutely.



00:44:41 Belinda Peters

00:44:41 Belinda Peters

And I think it's taking, it's taken a while to get school on board, but we finally have school on board with that. So, I think you know that gives me hope now.

00:44:50 Belinda Peters

As well, that we've found out... I think what parents can find is that they get to school. You know that there's a language issue. Or it can be picked up at school for some kids. For some kids that haven't had a lot of expressive language issues it can come as a shock like and I think there's some kids, DLD kids, kids with DLD that might not have speech issues, so they go under the radar a bit. But they get to school and they're struggling with some of those learning to read type things, that it manifests there.

00:45:25 Belinda Peters

So, you might have kids like that. So, I think yeah, getting some information on how phonic readers... how you know, how to get them get them away from those you know sight words.

00:45:39 Belinda Peters

You know, it's all... You have to learn those things.

00:45:40 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Oh, that's a that's a whole separate....

00:45:41 Belinda Peters

Oh yeah, we won't get into it.

00:45:42 Belinda Peters

We know it's controversial.

00:45:45 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You're right, it's actually knowing the science of teaching children to read. And I mean, I'm not here to talk about my research, but just touching on the other research out there. Is that you know, children with DLD do struggle at school.

00:45:53 Shaun Ziegenfusz

We know a little bit about how to support them... That for example, reading. It's going back to, you know, explicit synthetic phonics and teaching them the building blocks of how to read.



00:46:07 Shaun Ziegenfusz

We know that they're going to struggle potentially with the comprehension side of things and understanding because of their language, but that doesn't preclude them from the ability to learn how to read at all,

00:46:16 Belinda Peters

Yeah, yeah.

00:46:17 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, there's a lot that can be done.

00:46:18 Belinda Peters

I think yeah. And I think that's the thing too that there are things that that can be done.

00:46:24 Belinda Peters

I mean, there's still some ideas out there that if they haven't learned to read by 7 or you know, around that age that, oh sorry. But, you know, I think for me it's finding out no.

00:46:37 Belinda Peters

I think to really support that idea that we just keep at it and we can get there.

00:46:43 Belinda Peters

So, I think there the things that have helped.

00:46:45 Belinda Peters

And yeah, yeah, I think just instilling in him that difference is OK and that.

00:46:54 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Absolutely! I know I've said absolutely a lot. I'm agreeing with you. It's the rich tapestry of life, as I said.

00:47:02 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and I think because he's not ashamed or you know... That he doesn't always understand or get his point across.

00:47:09 Belinda Peters

I mean, he knows that that's him. And I think that's important to get across. And you know, not drumming it into them, you know, but it's I think an attitude.



00:47:21 Shaun Ziegenfusz

But being aware, yeah.

00:47:23 Belinda Peters

That it's OK and that we just keep working at it. And I think that's where he does really well.

00:47:31 Belinda Peters

And I think that sets you up for life, is you know that nothing come easily, but he knows that and you know he doesn't give up. I think that's the thing and he just said that to me like you know, don't give up.

00:47:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, amazing. Good on him.

00:47:46 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I think that's what is exciting for me to watch him grow. I'm excited to see and to know that, you know, there's some people that don't understand, but we're getting there.

00:47:58 Belinda Peters

I think we just keep chipping away at that.

00:48:00 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Which links beautifully into my next question which is, in your opinion what do you hope to see in the future for DLD in Australia or around the world?

00:48:11 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I think we're seeing a little bit of it and I'd love to see more is that people owning it. Like older, you see some teenagers and adults owning that as part of themselves and putting out videos or putting out you know? And, the same is... we're seeing people with ASD owning that label and it becoming part just part of who they are and part of what makes them great.

00:48:38 Belinda Peters

I think we're still learning, what are the positives of, you know? There's always a flip side where there's areas that you're not so good at so I think we're still learning that. And I'd love to hear from those, those people themselves and I think, as you say, it has been a struggle sometimes because we think of people with a language disorder as that they can't express themselves or that they are reluctant to.

00:49:03 Belinda Peters



I'd like to see them be proud of who they are and tell the world what they've struggled with, but also what they're good at.

00:49:11 Belinda Peters

And I want to, I guess, see it more recognized as a disorder here, and far and wide.

00:49:17 Belinda Peters

I think that yeah... And that you know, it grows from there. I think with awareness that understanding can grow, and I think that understanding is where we want to get to. Because you know when it comes to employment or other things that people can see or understand that you know, these people have a lot to offer.

00:49:40 Belinda Peters

And not to judge people on face value. I guess that when they think, you know it can be that people think... People who struggle with the speech aspect, for instance, that they're inarticulate or they don't have a lot to say. When really, they do have a lot to offer and a lot to say. It's raising that awareness and understanding.

00:49:59 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And I think that'll just come through people like yourself, advocating for your young person.

00:50:04 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And you know, and bringing people together just like your you know, DLD Australia Facebook group.

00:50:10 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and I think that with parents doing that then that it passes on to that next generation.

00:50:16 Belinda Peters

So that's where we're at on.... He has to grow up to self-advocate because you know, I'm not always going to be there and for him.

00:50:24 Belinda Peters

You know, in those situations where he might need to advocate for himself in terms of being at high school or those sorts of things. So, it's empowering them to stand up for and to know that, OK, I have difficulty with this and how to tell someone or just to be given a bit more time to answer or to formulate their thoughts, those sorts of things.

00:50:49 Shaun Ziegenfusz



Yeah, no, that's amazing. I think that there's so much opportunity for the future.

00:50:55 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I'm actually really excited, even though I feel like it's, you know, I often talk about it's a long game. You know, as you said earlier, not just from the parental perspective but with the condition itself.

00:51:04 Shaun Ziegenfusz

To say, you know we might be doing this for decades, but I hope one day I'll be sitting at a coffee shop and just hear oh something about DLD in the background and go you know that's come through parents and people and professionals coming together and raising awareness and making sure that these young people are recognized and they actually get the support they need.

00:51:26 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I mean that would be a really bright future.

00:51:28 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and I think that they can then find others that they can relate to too. That you know that might be where it is that you know they make friends. Find other people with it and can connect and get support like we're getting support as parents now that we weren't getting before.

00:51:49 Belinda Peters

I think you know, yeah, it's going to happen so yeah, yeah.

00:51:53 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah fantastic.

00:51:55 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, my last question for you is at The DLD project we really have a big focus on self-care and one of our values is really taking that time to breathe.

00:52:05 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You're obviously a really busy working mum who's got her hands full, so just to finish what do you do to take care of yourself?

00:52:14 Shaun Ziegenfusz

You know, particularly, you know you've got a, uh, load that you carry with you, that you're advocating and prioritizing and supporting. So, what do you do to take that time to breathe?



00:52:24 Belinda Peters

I think it's really important and I think yeah, when you're on that... You're in there, it can feel like, oh I can't, I can't stop, there's too much to do. But I think in order to give back and give the best to your child...

00:52:37 Belinda Peters

And I think any parent... This is the case, is to take that time out, so I like to sometimes I just have to go have a bath. Yes, forget about everything. No social media.

00:52:50 Belinda Peters

Yeah, I try to, yeah do Pilates and some yoga and I think that's like giving that to yourself.

00:52:55 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, beautiful. Yeah, filling that cup up.

00:52:58 Belinda Peters

Yeah. And I think that you do notice... that I notice that when I haven't been because it is...

00:53:04 Belinda Peters

I think you know, supporting your kids, but also if you put yourself in an advocacy area it can be taxing.

00:53:12 Belinda Peters

I think just in terms of just reading other people's stories, and they're so closely aligned to your own that it can be emotionally a bit much.

00:53:22 Belinda Peters

So, it's just having that boundary around that too.

00:53:27 Shaun Ziegenfusz

That's great, I mean just even finding a minute to breathe sometimes is hard. And then you are... it's constant bombardment with, you know social media or in the news and you know other things happening in your life that are beyond just you and your child.

00:53:42 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, I think it's great to hear that you know, despite everything going on, you can find that time because I imagine that at this point in the podcasts, there'll be families listening in going, you know, I might be



right at the beginning of my journey and trying to the idea of stopping and taking a breath it's so far away.

00:54:00 Belinda Peters

Yeah, and I think that can be yeah, and you don't want to burn out. I think it can be easy, particularly when you're really in that you know that stage...we're getting ready for entering school or those transition milestones.

00:54:16 Belinda Peters

Yeah, it's... that's when parents can burn out. And I know I have... I definitely have. And you know, and you notice when you're getting a bit.... Yeah, I think it's like the social media thing.

00:54:29 Belinda Peters

Or taking on... I'll talk about now.... I'm like, oh, that's kind of true. There can be just little bits of conversation that can trigger something in a parent because it just... And it could be just another uh friend really proud of their kid.

00:54:42 Belinda Peters

I'm proud of my friends and all their kids, but it's like that little thing that you carry with you.

00:54:47 Belinda Peters

The seed of, oh well will my child ever do that. Or you know it's something like I always feel like it's you know DLD now we have that name or whatever it was before, is a part of me now. So, you know, I carry that.

00:55:02 Belinda Peters

And any parent that their child is having difficulties they're carrying that around.

00:55:08 Belinda Peters

So, I'm just very aware of when I'm carrying that and when I might be dumping it or...

00:55:15 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Sharing the load, let's put it positively. Sharing the load.

00:55:15 Belinda Peters

Sure, yeah. Oversharing or.. And then you just see you know you might be just having a BBQ.

00:55:23 Belinda Peters



And yeah, and you get on a topic and then I know I'm like I have to check myself and go, you know, I might have overloaded someone else. And like you'll get the face. Like I think people might recognize like there's sometimes the pity face. And just knowing when you care for yourself then those situations aren't going to trigger you as much. That's what I found.

00:55:51 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Yeah, brilliant advice.

00:55:54 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Well, I will wrap up there by saying thank you so much for being our first guest on The talking DLD podcast.

00:56:02 Shaun Ziegenfusz

I got goosebumps at different points talking to you and I imagine that other people will have a similar reaction 'cause I feel that first and foremost for us is the families you know? If we're focused on our family's then we're on the right path and I feel that's something that we can never lose sight of because at the end of it, these are young people or big people who all they want is to you know, succeed at life and you know do the very best they can.

00:56:33 Shaun Ziegenfusz

So, I think thank you for helping us start the podcast series by keeping our families at the forefront.

00:56:39 Shaun Ziegenfusz

And I'm really looking forward to seeing the DLD Australian group grow.

00:56:44 Belinda Peters

Me too and thanks for having me on. It's been, you know, great just to talk about it and I think that's a big thing. The more we share, the more people, parents, people with DLD, the more we share, that's how we're going to get it out there and to help others.

00:56:59 Shaun Ziegenfusz

Couldn't ask for more, thank you.

00:57:04 Natalie Turner

And that's a wrap on our first episode of the Talking DLD podcast brought to you by The DLD Project. Thanks for tuning in.

00:57:11 Natalie Turner



Our vision is a world where people with DLD are recognized, understood and empowered to live their best life.

00:57:17 Natalie Turner

Don't forget to subscribe to our channel for more great DLD discussions.

00:57:21 Natalie Turner

In our next episode, we catch up with Professor Sheena Reilly to talk about the future of DLD in Australia. She's a really smart woman who's been working in this space, for a really long time, so you don't want to miss that episode.

00:57:35 Natalie Turner

Suggest a topic to investigate or a person to interview. We'd love to hear from you, so please email us at connect@DLDproject.com. And don't forget to head over to our website. It's brand new and exciting and there's a heap of evidence based DLD information, resources and training. TheDLDproject.com. Lastly, if you like what you've heard, please help us get the word out there about DLD by sharing this podcast with your networks. Together, we can make lives better today.